

# Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

130 East Twenty-second Street, New York City

## Bulletin

VOL. X, No. 2

FEBRUARY, 1931

### IN THE MODERN MANNER

Go to sleep, darling, sweet peace to your soul!  
Mother will pray for your motor control.  
Check up statistics on mental hygiene;  
Look at your brain through an X-ray machine;  
Hushaby, darling, it's mother's ambition  
To get your reflexes into condition.  
Mother is wise to the new sociology,  
Psychoanalysis, endocrinology,  
She'd like to sing to you, but the psychologists,  
Preschool authorities, learned biologists,  
Ban lullabies for the kids of the nation  
Lest you develop the mother-fixation.  
Make your good night scientific and formal—  
Experts say kissing will make you subnormal!  
Angels are watching o'er each nerve and gland—  
Hushaby, lullaby—ain't science grand?

—DOROTHY ASHBY POWNALL.

### STANDARDS FOR MEMBERS DISCUSSED BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At its meeting in New York City, February third, the League's Executive Committee reviewed the various sets of standards which are in preparation for publication or revision.

The Standards for Children's Aid Organizations will have final editing and be presented for reprinting at the meeting of the League's Board of Directors in the fall. These standards were first printed in 1930.

The Standards for Children's Protective Societies will soon be ready for circulation for the purpose of criticism among the protective agencies within the League's membership.

A tentative draft of the Standards of Institutions Caring for Dependent Children will be mimeographed and sent to the League's institution members, preliminary to final publication.

The progress reported on the development of standards was the one item of executive committee business of greatest interest to the readers of the BULLETIN, although it was only one of various subjects to which the Committee gave consideration.

### INSTITUTES FOR SOUTHERN INSTITUTION WORKERS

How to provide training for institution workers while they are employed is a problem which the States of North Carolina and South Carolina will attempt to solve this spring. For this purpose the Tri-State Conference of Orphanage Workers has enlisted the services of the Child Welfare League of America in planning a series of four two-week institutes to be held in April. Each institute is to be so located as to allow a maximum attendance of the workers from nearby institutions. To facilitate attendance of those who actually care for the children, classes will begin at 10.00 A. M. and close at 4.00 P. M.

Two other national organizations have joined with the League in providing the teaching staff for the institutes, the time of this staff being donated by the national organizations. All other expenses will be borne by the local institutions. The American Child Health Association is contributing the services of Dr. LeRoy A. Wilkes, who will conduct a course on health

### FUNCTIONS OF A CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

In a general report prepared recently by Mr. Carstens following a survey in an urban community, he discussed the functions of a children's aid society. Reference was also made to the application of certain principles set forth by the Milford Conference to the problem of relationship between family and children's agencies.

While a children's aid society's work is naturally modified by community resources and conditions peculiar to a given locality, there are certain functions which are more or less fundamental.

From time to time League members and others raise the question as to what a high grade children's aid society really should do. We are, therefore, quoting the following excerpts from Mr. Carstens' report.

"The functions of a children's aid society are never static. They need to be redefined from time to time and reinterpreted to the other agencies in the community and to the citizens in general. Until very recently most institutions and many child placing agencies have accepted children for whom application was made by parent or friend without a particularly careful scrutiny as to whether (1) the child's home might be able to continue to give care with or without relief; or (2) whether other and better resources for his care were available in the community. As social service has improved, however, it has been found to be important and necessary to make a rigid investigation at the time of application so that the child who is helpless about

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

(Continued on page 3, column 2)

## FUNCTION OF A CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

(Continued)

this matter may not be unnecessarily deprived of his own family and kinship ties, and the community may not be asked to support children for whom the family can make proper provision. Frequently, therefore, the staff of a children's aid society that is responsible for investigation and adjustment work is larger than the staff that places and supervises children in foster homes. As a matter of fact, in many communities only one-third or one-fourth of the children involved in applications for care are finally received into care.

"In the early days of the development of children's aid societies free home care of children was the most common form of service in the United States. But during the last 25 years the unusual development of preventive medicine and of the practical applications of psychology and psychiatry have given even the layman a much better understanding of the physical, mental and emotional problems from which many children suffer and the need for types of treatment that the exclusive use of free homes cannot possibly provide.

"In addition it has come to be recognized that most of the children placed in free homes, unless they are young children who are taken for adoption, are expected in their teens to give a very considerable return in service to the family that has received them into care. While their physical care may be unsatisfactory, their education is apt to be interfered with and their status in the family is too frequently an abnormal one. To safeguard a child's education, to protect him against early exhausting labor and to give him the medical care and psychological study he may need requires more careful investigation and follow-up than most free homes willing to take older children will permit.

"The idea lying back of the relationship of the older child in free home care is on the whole economic. The relationship in boarding home care is social in that the agency in charge has the opportunity to, first of all, consider the needs of the individual child. The latter kind of care appears at first glance to be more expensive than free home care. Experience has shown, however, that the investment involved in giving a child the type of education for which he has the capacity, good health, and a sense of security and 'belonging' makes him a more valuable citizen and thus yields better returns to the community. For these reasons free home care is decreasing and boarding home care is being increasingly turned to as the most efficient and flexible instrument of a children's aid society.

"In the early years of children's aid societies their principal concerns were with waifs, foundlings and the children of destitute and dependent families. This is not now the case. The full orphan and sometimes the half orphan still require foster home care, but problems arising from poverty and destitution are now better solved by grants of public or private outdoor relief than by removing children from their own homes. A much larger proportion of the children in need of care comes from families where neglect and vice or crime prevent a child from growing up in reasonably wholesome surroundings. But even here constructive case work by an efficient society for the prevention of cruelty to chil-

dren makes possible the saving of the child's home in many instances.

"The establishment of the juvenile court and the organization of medical and psychiatric clinics has had a large influence upon the program of the modern children's aid society. In every community there is a group of children that are not necessarily dependent in the economic sense, but that are not well adjusted in their own homes. The clinics are finding these every day and are often able to bring about a better adjustment by interpretation of a child's difficulties to his parents. But numbers of children having physical, mental and emotional problems need the temporary and, in some instances, the permanent care of a foster home to bring about a wholesome adjustment to life that will prevent slipping into delinquency or becoming economic failures or mental wrecks. The care of such children is the function of a modern children's aid society quite as much as the care of dependent and neglected children. It goes without saying that when a child comes into the care of a children's aid society, as a rule, the problem of the family comes with it.

"When the juvenile court, the hospitals, the medical clinics or child guidance clinics have found children with special problems and have recommended temporary or permanent foster home care, the community is fortunate when it has a children's aid society with a trained and experienced staff and adequate financial resources to carry out the required treatment. Without proper treatment facilities much of the value of the expensive professional services which hospitals and clinics provide is lost and thus the failure to make proper provision for a high grade children's aid program is in the end short-sighted and wasteful.

"There has been discovered in a number of communities a tendency to separate the diagnostic function of a children's aid society from its treatment side, a wholly unscientific procedure. The Milford Conference, composed of a group of social case workers representing family welfare, child welfare and all the other forms of social case work, after careful study enunciated the following principle:

"There should be no diagnostic authority without treatment responsibility, and no treatment responsibility without diagnostic authority,' and gives the following explanation:

"In the first place we believe that treatment loses the opportunity to be completely effective unless it is continuously in the hands of one agency from the time of application. Exceptions to this statement must, of course, be noted in cases where a transfer of responsibility from one agency to another is desirable.

"In the second place we believe that in the long run neither investigation nor diagnosis can be adequately or safely made except by an authority which is also responsible for treatment. We recognize the consulting diagnostician in professional practice when his service is coordinated with that of the authority having full treatment responsibility. The test of investigation and diagnosis lies in the results of treatment. Those experts and those organizations which are not continuously subjected to the test which their own treatment affords for their own investigations and diagnoses are not likely to make investigations and diagnoses that are sound.

Only ex-  
gation  
essentia

"W  
compe  
and dia

"Res

but exc  
childre  
ships e

aid soc  
'family  
agency  
childre

and ps  
work i

not id  
agency  
society

based o  
whole  
whose

equipm  
"A c

various  
become  
preven

It will  
ing to

of fam  
but fo  
problem

"A  
and de

the co  
resource

is, the  
mind i

"Th  
of grea

commu  
entirel

the re  
part o

cumsc  
of the

care of  
import

be abl  
to chil

This n  
work v  
service  
and as  
experi

"If  
financ  
service  
irrespe  
be ma

Nat  
apolis  
Amer  
ming



Only experience in treatment can be sure that investigation and diagnosis cover adequately the foundations essential to treatment.

"We believe, therefore, that it is indispensable to a competent agency that it make its own investigations and diagnoses."

"Responsibility for diagnosis of cases accepted, in all but exceptional instances, should be in the hands of the children's aid society. In the adjustment of relationships existing between a family society and a children's aid society it should be kept in mind that the term 'family work' cannot be confined to what a family agency does. All forms of social case work, such as children's aid work, probation, visiting teacher service, and psychiatric social work deal with families if the work is efficiently done, but these various services are not identical with the work of the family welfare agency. The distinction between a children's aid society and a family welfare association is generally based on whether the service is to be to the family as a whole or to a child in the family, for the treatment of whose problems the children's aid society has special equipment.

"A children's aid society closely coordinated with the various clinics and hospitals of the community will become an increasingly valuable instrument in the preventive phases of the community's social program. It will serve not only public and private agencies turning to it for the care of children, but also the children of families economically above the dependency level but for the time being unable to cope with their own problems.

"A children's aid society with a limited endowment and dependent from year to year for its support upon the community fund inevitably has limitation to its resources. The payment of board for children in care is, therefore, an item that must be constantly kept in mind in the building of its annual budget.

"The selection of its beneficiaries becomes a question of great importance not only to the agency but to the community as a whole. If such a selection is made entirely upon the basis of whether the family, friends or the referring agency can pay board, or a substantial part of it, the private agency's program is more circumscribed than it should be in any community. One of the functions of a private agency is undoubtedly the care of children for whom board can be paid. Another important function is the educational work that it may be able to do in undertaking difficult forms of service to children for whose care payment cannot be made. This may lead the community, when it has found such work valuable, to undertake it on a larger scale. Public service is less flexible in its program than private service and as a rule it cannot finance services that are in the experimental stage or that require special equipment.

"If possible a children's aid society should be so financed that every year it may render experimental service or service on peculiarly difficult problems irrespective of whether refunds of board can or cannot be made."

**National Conference of Social Work, Minneapolis, June 14-20. Child Welfare League of America headquarters will be at the Hotel Leamington.**

(Continued from page 1, column 2)

programs. Miss Erna D. Bunke, of the National Recreation Association, will give a course on recreation. The Child Welfare League of America is providing two of its staff—Miss Elizabeth M. Clarke, who will teach children's case work, and Mr. H. W. Hopkirk, whose subject will be institution administration. The institutes will be held at Clinton, S. C.; Charlotte, Greensboro, and Durham (or Raleigh), N. C. At the close of the institutes the staff and those who have attended will participate in the Tri-State Conference of Orphanage Workers, to be held April 30 and May 1, at Oxford, N. C. Rev. Thomas P. Noe, of York, S. C., is chairman of the committee in charge of the institutes.—H. W. H.

## INSTITUTION NEWS

The January number of the *Catholic Charities Review* contains an editorial on "The Infant Home at the Crossroads," from which the following excerpts are quoted because they give a picture of the old methods of infant care and present day trends in this specialized field of service.

"Originally the diocesan orphanage represented the entire Catholic program of child care within the diocese. About the time of the Civil War another institution, namely, the infant asylum, began to appear side by side with the orphan asylum as an essential part of the diocesan program of child care. These two institutions gradually became a tradition in American dioceses. \* \* \* Many dioceses could never have carried the load of these two institutions had not religious communities been willing to assume complete responsibility not only for the management but also for the financing of them. \* \* \* The infant asylum is, however, a heavy drain on the resources of many dioceses. The drain was not so noticeable in times past when the institution was manned by two or three sisters, and more than half the children died in their first year. In those days it was assumed that most foundlings and children of illegitimate birth would die anyhow. There was nothing that could be done about the situation, so why take pains? A sort of cold fatalism hung over the institutions, but was brightened by the thought that the infants were hastening their steps to paradise. We have no desire to judge harshly the standards of our infant homes in the past. They made the best use they could of the resources and the experience that were available to them. The problem that our sisterhoods faced was overwhelming, and with all their handicaps they certainly were far ahead of most other agencies.

"A new day has dawned in infant care in the United States. Underprivileged infants are no longer doomed to premature death. With scarcely any exception our Catholic infant homes have opened their eyes to the new possibilities in infant care. They have improved their

## THE CHILD WELFARE LEAGUE OF AMERICA, INC.

*President*—CHENEY C. JONES, Boston  
*1st Vice-President*—JACOB KEPECS, Chicago  
*2d Vice-President*—MRS. LESSING J. ROSENWALD, Philadelphia  
*3d Vice-President*—MISS RUTH TAYLOR, New York  
*Secretary*—MISS JESSIE P. CONDIT, Newark  
*Treasurer*—PAUL T. BEISSER, Baltimore  
*Executive Director*—C. C. CARSTENS

This BULLETIN, published monthly (omitted in July and August).  
 Annual subscription, \$1.00. Single copies, 10c.

standards very greatly during the past 15 years. Their standards of nursing and medical care are infinitely better than they used to be. An increasing number of them have returned to breast feeding in preference to artificial feeding. All this of course means a great increase in the cost of operation. Dioceses that are giving thought to the reorganization of their infant homes as well as those contemplating new homes are giving serious thought to the question of increased costs. Some are beginning to ask whether it would not be possible to provide for infants in some other way. One diocese has already arranged with the hospitals to care for unmarried mothers. In this diocese the central organization of Catholic charities is using boarding homes in order to supplement the hospitals. A neighboring diocese has decided to give this plan a fair trial and to hold its institutional program in abeyance in the meantime. \* \* \*

"The cost of operating infant homes and the difficulty of securing personnel for these homes is bound to exercise a profound influence on this department of Catholic child care in the future. Many dioceses that have not as yet built infant homes will adopt boarding home care. Some dioceses that are confronted with the task of building new infant homes to take the place of their present old building will hesitate when they consider the costs of building and operation. They may decide to try a boarding home program."

### ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEW YORK FEDERATION OF AGENCIES CARING FOR PROTESTANTS, JANUARY 27, 1931

Ten years ago this year the Federation of Agencies Caring for Protestants came into being. Because we have completed the first decade of our work, it seems fitting that we should briefly review its history.

The Federation was organized through a Committee of Protestants, which was appointed by the Commissioner of Public Welfare, and was seriously concerned by the lack of coordination in the work of institutions for Protestant children.

The objects of this organization were:—first, to form an association of agencies interested in the care of dependent, neglected and delinquent children of Protestant affiliation; second, to act as a clearing house of information to the community, and third, through the exchange of information to make sure that there was no

group of dependents in need of care because of lack of coordinated organization.

A few months later, through the generosity of a member of the Committee of Protestants, a secretary was employed and a study started of the facilities for the care of Protestant children in Greater New York. As a result of this study valuable information concerning institutions was collected and edited so that it might be available to this immediate group and the community.

It was found that there were 44 institutions caring for Protestant children. Twenty-six of this number were private and the remaining eighteen received city charges. The classification was as follows: 32 for dependents, 7 for delinquents, and 5 for convalescents.

Twenty-two institutions became members of the Federation, thus giving this group its first federated identity. Two things resulted almost immediately:—(1) institutions began to gather the strength which comes with a conscious coordination of work; and (2) the need was felt for a central bureau, not only for information, but for service and consultation.

In 1923, in an office provided by Mr. W. W. Skiddy and with a staff consisting of an executive secretary and stenographer, the Federation began to function as

- I. An Information Bureau of available Protestant institutions and agencies caring for children. The Welfare Council has since designated the Federation's information bureau as the official bureau for information on children's institutions and agencies as a part of its comprehensive scheme for a central bureau.
- II. A Service Bureau for placing any dependent or neglected child.
- III. A Consultation Unit for service to institutions.
- IV. An instrument for cooperation with the Department of Public Welfare in the care of Protestant city charges.

The outstanding event of the year 1923 was the opening of a Clearing Bureau founded by Mr. Edwin Gould to serve as a quarantine and diagnostic station for all white Protestant dependent children. This not only relieved institutions of the expense of quarantine, but it made possible far better medical examinations and health work.

It's too long a story to tell you step by step of the succeeding events in the development of the Federation. In 1925 the name of the organization was changed from Federation of Institutions Caring for Protestant Children to Federation of Agencies Caring for Protestants so that agencies other than institutions for children could be admitted to membership.

In 1927 our scope was again enlarged in order that the Federation might act as a permanent foundation through which bequests and gifts can be held and administered for designated purposes.



One of the most interesting developments in the past ten years of the Federation's existence is the consciousness on the part of institutions that they must become an integral part of the community's social program. This has resulted in better personnel, the use of social case work and the recognition of children as individuals with distinct personalities.

As the Federation exists for and through its member institutions, a review of its history means to some extent a review of the outstanding achievements of its members.

One of our member organizations has scrapped a part of its old policy as well as its old congregate building and developed new policies which more fully meet present needs of child care.

Two other institutions have consolidated; both organizations fully realizing that by merging their forces and resources greater opportunities can be assured for the children under their care. They are looking forward to the time when they can abandon their large congregate building, which is located in a restricted city area, and move to a cottage plan institution in a suburban district.

Another institution, feeling the need for increased facilities for special work with older boys, has built a hall accommodating a group of twenty-five. A trained social worker is in charge.

Other institutions, realizing that it is important that organizations caring for children be an integral part of the whole child welfare field, are working out social programs for themselves.

I now come to a report of our work during 1930. Our records show that we are serving a larger number of co-operating agencies, churches and individuals in advice and service regarding the care of children than we have heretofore. Then, too, there have been greater demands from the institutions themselves for advice regarding policies, building plans, personnel and details of management.

Three institutions have asked the Federation's assistance in selecting superintendents; twenty-one have advised with us regarding employment of other staff members; five have asked for advice and help in selecting case workers. Two institutions invited the Federation to make a survey of their work. In an effort to show the value of good social study before children are accepted for permanent care we have been doing all the case work for three institutions. One institution recently changed its policy by giving up the care of boys. The Federation was asked to make plans for this group. Many of our institutions ask for similar services. Other than consultation and case work service, the Federation serves its members through its five conferences a year and the Executive Secretary's membership on committees representing common interests.

A committee of the Administrative Council of the Federation has been drawing up a set of desirable standards to be used by our member institutions as a measuring rod for their work. It is hoped by the Committee that eventually all the institutions of the Federation will measure up to this set of standards, which will shortly be submitted to each Board.

While our present service is primarily for children, there are frequent demands from the adult group—employment, information on homes for the aged, and convalescent care are the most common requests. \* \* \*

From January, 1930, to December 31, 1930, we had 632 personal applications for placement, involving 1,265 children. This is an increase of 155 cases over the previous year. The reasons for application were: desertion, divorce or separation, improper guardianship, illness of parent or parents, insanity, behavior problems, illegitimacy, and one or both parents dead. Quite apart from applications for placement there were 865 inquiries for information.

Adequate care for the dependent Protestant colored child has been a pressing problem for several years for all child-placing agencies in the city. The Colored Orphan Asylum, our one institution for colored children, has, in the past six years, more than doubled its population to help meet this need. This has been done in spite of the feeling of the Board of Directors that better work can be accomplished with a smaller group.

Last September, Commissioner Taylor of the Department of Public Welfare called a meeting to discuss the urgent need of additional facilities for this group. It was reported at this meeting that 150 colored children were being detained in shelters of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. One superintendent reported that 82 children were being detained in his shelter and that many of them had been there for six months. At a subsequent meeting, the Federation was asked to make an analysis and classification of this group.

As a result of the meeting called by the Commissioner, the New York Protestant Episcopal City Mission Society offered its Farm House temporarily, at Schermerhorn, Milford, Connecticut, for the care of 25 boys under ten years of age. Camp Norge, which is operated by the Norwegian Lutheran Deaconess Home and is located in New City, Rockland County, opened its doors until June 1st, 1931, to 27 boys and girls of pre-school age.

The Edwin Gould Foundation has obtained a five-year lease on the old Peabody Home at 2064 Boston Road, Bronx, and it is being reconditioned for the use of 75 children. It is hoped that this new work will be directed with the cooperation of the Board of the Colored Orphan Asylum and the New York Protestant

Episcopal City Mission Society, which has felt so keenly the urgency of the situation. It will be known as "Foundation Bureau for Colored Children" and will probably function as a clearing house for the boarding out of colored children.

A year ago, at our annual meeting, we announced an anonymous gift given for the purpose of creating a fund to be known as the "Youth's Foundation." The income from this gift will be distributed annually. Last year it amounted to \$1,000 and was awarded in February to nine member agencies and institutions. One scholarship was granted.

In 1930 the Federation received its first large legacy for distribution. Mr. Herbert M. Baldwin, who died in March, left his entire estate to the Federation to be held and distributed in accordance with certain instructions in his Will. Ninety per cent of the income of this fund—to be known as the Baldwin Fund—is to be distributed annually to Protestant charities and philanthropies.

—LOUISE C. CUTTER, Executive Secretary.

#### PENNSYLVANIA'S 10-YEAR PROGRAM

A 10-year program of child welfare for Pennsylvania was adopted by unanimous vote at the state-wide child-welfare conference held in Harrisburg in December, 1930, under the auspices of the child-welfare division of the Public Charities Association of Pennsylvania. The program is the result of two years of cooperative effort by committees of specialists in nine different fields of child welfare and the sponsorship of a central state-wide committee of representative citizens, which will also serve as a continuation committee to aid in putting the program into effect.

Among the items of the program are the following: Emphasis upon the preservation of family life as the basis of child welfare and upon the "oneness" of all child-caring work in the single aim of developing the personality of the individual child; State appropriations for the mothers' assistance fund sufficient to cover the present waiting list of 2,500 eligible mothers not now provided for; employment of trained welfare workers and the giving of constructive family service by directors of the poor; increasing the effectiveness of juvenile courts, raising the juvenile-court age to 18 years, and establishing a State probation bureau; development of the spirit and service of domestic-relations courts in the present courts and more effective handling of desertion through probation and individual treatment; study of laws relating to illegitimacy; education of the public with regard to the care of the unmarried mother and her child, provision of the fullest possible measure of opportunity, education, and training for physically and mentally handicapped children. (C. W. N. S., U. S. Children's Bureau.)

#### NEW PUBLICATIONS

*Community Planning in Unemployment Emergencies*, compiled by Joanna C. Colcord, director, Charity Organization Department, Russell Sage Foundation, brings together recommendations growing out of experience in other economic crises. The purpose of this publication is to aid communities in their efforts to deal effectively with the present unemployment situation.

While no one can tell how long the present depression will continue, we know from rather full records of previous unemployment periods that the ill-effects of the present situation on individuals and families will be felt long after the business situation is improved. The sooner a community begins to organize to counteract these ill-effects the more speedy will be its recovery.

*The Behavior of Young Children*, by Ethel B. Waring and Marguerite Wilker, professors of child guidance, Cornell University. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons.

This is the second in a planned series of four volumes having to do with the behavior of pre-school children and covers the special topics of dressing, toilet and washing. The subject matter consists of a presentation of incidents involving children and adults about which the authors raise questions as to whether the mother used good judgment in a given situation and what the child was or was not learning from his experience. There are also quotations from other authors regarding the topics discussed and lists of suggestive questions as to what approach the parent or other adult caring for the child makes to the job of habit training.

*The Healthy Minded Child*, edited by Nelson Antrin Crawford and Karl A. Menninger, M.D. Published by Coward-McCann, Inc., New York.

This book, consisting of a series of articles by outstanding persons in the child guidance field, is an attempt to bring modern scientific knowledge to everyday people. Children can be brought up by common sense, say the editors, but they shouldn't be. They should be brought up with all the aid that modern science can give. Parents, teachers, foster mothers and cottage mothers will find much of practical value in this small volume, which can be borrowed from the League's library by member agencies.

*Public Welfare Administration in Louisiana*, by Elizabeth Wisner. Published by University of Chicago Press.

In the span of a century the Louisiana territory experienced six changes of government, law, language and mores. It is inevitable that public welfare measures should have been shaped by these changing influences. The Louisiana legislature annually appropriates its largest sum to public welfare purposes, including medi-



cal care of the poor. What this investment accomplishes, what protection it affords, what treatment it makes possible are among the topics so ably discussed by Miss Wisner, who, fortunately, has not left out colorful bits of historical background of "La Belle Louisianne" in her presentation of the problems of public welfare administration.

*Story of Near East Relief*, by James L. Barton. Published by The Macmillan Company, New York.

The introduction to the story of Near East Relief has been written by Calvin Coolidge, who says, "it is a story of philanthropic achievement which may well be a satisfaction to our people."

It seems appropriate that the Near East Relief should give such a full account of its stewardship. Later chapters of this adventure in international relief work will necessarily be written by the next generation, as not enough time has elapsed as yet to warrant a completely objective appraisal of results.

*The Contribution of Economics to Social Work*, by Amy Hewes, New York School of Social Work Publications. Published by Columbia University Press.

This book is the first volume in a series of New York School publications designed to cover the relationship of one of the sciences or one other major field of human activity to social work. It offers to the social worker "the results of the economist's research and furnishes him with points of view and tools for use in the work of social reconstruction which is coming to be a joint caring responsibility of the social worker and the economist."

*Social Control of the Mentally Deficient*, by Stanley P. Davies. Published by Thomas Y. Crowell Company, New York.

This book portrays the striking evolution of social attitudes and programs relating to mental deficiency from the earliest times to the present. Its particular value to the child welfare field is its emphasis upon the fact that mental deficiency does not necessarily connote social maladjustment and economic dependency. The corollary to this is that children have potentialities for development in spite of low I. Q.'s and should be given opportunities within the limits of their capabilities. "Evidently," says Davies, "the mentally deficient who, by reason of dependency and delinquency, have come to public attention and have added to the problem of feeble-mindedness are but a small fraction of a large number of mentally deficient persons who are more or less regularly employed for wages, lead uneventful lives, and live decently and happily in their own limited ways."

*Creative Power*, by Hughes Mearns, Professor of Creative Education, New York University. Published by Doubleday, Doran & Co., New York.

Creative Power brings together some of the experiments of the author in developing the creative instinct in children. The examples of verse and prose which have been drawn out of the hidden powers of ordinary children illustrate what Cheney C. Jones, president of the Child Welfare League of America, means when he talks about what is on the minds of children and bids us not forget these inner worlds of childhood in our treatment of dependent and neglected children.

The author pays his respects to the sentimentalists who glorify the American child and refuse to let him display his age-old mind. The inner life they never see, much less suspect, unless the child unfortunately remains infantile.

These sentimentalists, for example, would get considerable of a shock from the following poem written by a very nice young girl whose appearance would not indicate any flirting of her fancy with the idea of a "temporary lapse from constancy."

My bonny lies over the ocean!  
My bonny lies over the sea! (ahem!)  
I'm sick of long distance emotion,  
So—meet me at Huyler's at three.

We hope some institution in the League membership which operates its own school system will borrow this book for the use of its teachers.

#### ENCLOSURE

(Sent to members only)

**SALARIES VS. RELIEF.** By Clare M. Tousley, Assistant Director, New York Charity Organization Society. Reprinted from *The Rotarian*, November, 1930.

#### REGIONAL CONFERENCES

The *Ohio Valley Regional Conference* will be held in Louisville, February 27-28. The Brown Hotel will be headquarters. At the dinner meeting on Friday, February 27th, Mr. Robert W. Kelso, director of the St. Louis Community Fund, will speak on "The Place of the State Department in the Development of Child Welfare Work."

The *Mid-Western Regional Conference* will be held in Chicago March 20-21. All sessions will be held at the Auditorium Hotel. Information may be secured from the Chairman of the Program Committee, Mr. Harry Hill, Chief Probation Officer, Cook County Juvenile Court, Chicago.

The *Hotel Biltmore* will be headquarters for the *New England Regional Conference*, in Providence, Rhode Island, April 15-16, 1931. Miss Mattie L. Beattie, executive secretary of the Children's Friend Society, Providence, is the chairman of the Program Committee.

### INTER-CITY CONFERENCE ON ILLEGITIMACY BULLETIN

*President:* MISS MAUD MORLOCK, Cleveland, Ohio  
*Vice-President:* MISS SABINA MARSHALL, Cleveland, Ohio  
*Secretary:* MISS GRACE REDDING, Cleveland, Ohio  
*Treasurer:* LAWRENCE C. COLE, Cleveland, Ohio

### ADOPTIONS IN CONNECTICUT

RACHEL M. LAWTON, Secretary  
Connecticut Conference on Parenthood

There are 115 Probate Districts within the State of Connecticut, the judges of which are elected biennially for the term of two years. Several of the larger city courts embrace adjoining towns within their jurisdictions, but the great majority are one-town courts, often presided over by a lay judge who may combine other town offices with that of Judge of Probate, as necessarily but a small part of his time need be devoted to that duty. It is a well known fact that many judges are re-elected term after term, some serving their district for as many as twenty years, and retiring only upon reaching the age limit of seventy years.

Among the many functions of this court none is more important than its jurisdiction in matters pertaining to the welfare of children, one in particular being the approval of Agreements for Adoption.

April 1st, 1930, the Secretary of the Connecticut Conference on Parenthood sent letters to 108 Judges of Probate throughout the State, asking if they would extend the courtesy of information as to the number of adoptions approved in their court in 1929. Eighty-seven replies were received. This 76 per cent return was exceedingly gratifying. In addition personal interviews were had with the judges or clerks of five other courts.

Of these 113 courts canvassed:

- 51 reported no adoptions in 1929
- 41 reported 157 adoptions in 1929
- 20 have as yet made no return

including three of the largest districts. The number of adoptions would be materially increased if interviews had also been arranged with the judges or clerks of these courts.

Although the form letter asked for no further data than the number of adoptions in 1929, several of the returns gave additional details.

One court had no adoptions in ten years, another only one or two during the same period; one reported but one in seven years.

A judge from a small town wrote that "it wasn't a bit good year for adoptions as he hadn't any to report, but hoped to do better next time."

The majority reported from one to five.

Several letters gave the names of the parties to the agreement, and stated the reasons for the adoption. For example: Three were by step-fathers; an adult 26 by a widow 65; 3 adults and an illegitimate child; two children from institutions and one from a private home.

There were also some interesting reports as to preliminary procedure. One judge, representing 18 adoptions for 1929, requires an investigation by a public department after a child has been six months to a year in the home. Another, representing 11, also uses his Department of Public Welfare, the superintendent of which writes: "It has always seemed to me that the thought behind the Act which compelled my signature to the adoption papers going through the Probate Court was that I might investigate and report to the court the suitability of the adoptive parents and their ability to provide for the future of the child. I have followed this rule before signing papers on any adoption that came to my attention."

Another judge always talks with the adoptive parent but has no time limit for trial placement of the child in the home of the prospective adopting parents.

Judge Slavin, of Waterbury, requires the personal appearance of one or both adopting parents at the Probate Court for an interview prior to the final hearing. If any incident arises during this interview which does not satisfy him, he makes further investigation, formerly through the worker of the Children's Home Commission, and now through the Board of Public Welfare. He stated that this is the only way he can satisfy himself, and that unless he did this the hearing which is required by law would be a farce. Although the statute does not specifically ask him to do so, he feels that this becomes a matter of evidence and can only be handled in this manner.

Judge Slavin states that he considers the present statute very faulty. Two points which he mentioned specifically were that there was no provision made for the change of name, except by inference, also that there was no provision made for filing record of the adoption with the birth certificate, which he also felt to be highly desirable.

The prompt cooperation manifested would seem to indicate that further information concerning these matters will be forthcoming should it be requested.

The National Organization for Public Health Nursing, 370 Seventh Avenue, New York, has worked out a suggested outline for what it terms board education as a basis for institutes for board members. While the outline is intended for the use of health organizations, it is suggestive of what may be done by children's agencies interested in promoting a similar project.